

Message Text

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45

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ADP-00 MC-02 PM-09 SS-14 NSC-10 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-09 NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 USIA-12 PRS-01

STR-08 EB-11 COME-00 GAC-01 TRSE-00 NIC-01 RSR-01

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R 261631 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9999

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

UNCLAS LONDON 03548

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRN, PFOR, CH, UK

SUBJECT: DAILY EXPRESS SAYS US MENACES CONCORDE SALE TO
PRC

1. IN FRONT- PAGE STORY IN MARCH 26 DAILY EXPRESS,
CHAPMAN PINCHER SAYS U. S. HAS LAUNCHED " RUTHLESS
CAMPAIGN" ON EVE OF BRITISH TRADE FAIR IN PEKING TO PER-
SUADE PRC TO CANCEL ALMOST- FIRM ORDER FOR TWO CONCORDE
AIRLINERS AND 140 MILLION POUND ORDER FOR VC-10' S.

2. ACCORDING TO PINCHER, UK MINISTERS NOW IN PEKING
INTEND " TO GO ALL OUT" TO PROTECT CONCORDE ORDER WHICH
IS CRUCIAL FOR AIRCRAFT' S FUTURE. NEWS THAT AMERICANS
PURSUING ANTI- CONCORDE DRIVE WAS BROUGHT BACK FROM
PEKING BY ROLLS- ROYCE TEAM. ONLY MONTHS AGO BRITAIN
SEEMED CERTAIN TO GET THE LION' S SHARE OF THE CHINESE
AIRCRAFT MARKET BECAUSE PEKING WANTED TO BE INDEPENDENT
TECHNOLOGICALLY OF THE SUPERPOWERS. " SINCE THEN THERE
HAS BEEN INTENSE DIPLOMATIC ACTIVITY BY THE U. S. STATE
DEPARTMENT", WHICH HAS RESULTED IN AN EFFORT TO UNDER-
MINE THE VC-10 DEAL BY OFFERING THE BOEING 707 AT A FAR
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CHEAPER PRICE. " THE AMERICAN PURPOSE IS NOT ONLY TO
SECURE IMMEDIATE CHINESE ORDERS BUT TO WEAKEN THE
BRITISH AVIATION INDUSTRY AND DESTROY CONCORDE IN
PARTICULAR".

ANNENBERG

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** UNCLASSIFIED

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